

The Abstract of the Disclosure is objected to because of the inclusion of so-called legal phraseology. In response, a new Abstract has been provided for the Examiner's consideration and approval.

Claims 1, 3 through 7, 11 through 13, 15, and 16 remain pending in the application. Claims 2, 8 through 10, 14, and 17 through 47 have been canceled. Claims 1, 3 through 7, 11 through 13, 15, and 16 have been amended to even more succinctly define the invention and/or to improve their form. Again, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added. Claim 1 is the only independent claims present in the application.

Claims 3, 4, 5, 26, 27, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for the reasons set forth in the Official Action. In response, the claims have been amended to avoid the grounds of the rejection.

Claims 1 through 3, 25, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,256,470 (Taniyama, et al.).

Claims 4 through 24 and 27 through 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taniyama, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,691,021 (Kobe).

The rationale underlying each of the foregoing art rejections is succinctly set forth in the Official Action. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 1 calls for a developer container detachably mountable to an image forming apparatus. The developer container includes a main body for accommodating a developer, the main body is provided with an opening for permitting discharge of the developer. A driving force receiving portion receives the driving force for feeding the developer in the main body toward the opening, from a driving force supplying

portion provided in the image forming apparatus. The driving force receiving portion engages with the driving force supplying portion by relative movement toward each other. The driving force receiving portion includes a surface fastener for disengageable engagement with a surface fastener provided on the driving force supplying portion.

Taniyama, et al. discloses a toner cartridge having a cap 160, which has a surface provided with two projections 163. When the toner cartridge is inserted into the apparatus, the projections, respectively, engage with two holes 36b formed in a disk 36 provided in the main assembly of the apparatus. As a result, the driving force is transmittable from a driving unit 20 to the cap 160. (See Figures 3, 4, and 6; and Column 6, lines 29 through 35 and Column 7, lines 12 through 16 of Taniyama, et al.).

It is respectfully submitted that the arrangement of Taniyama, et al. is fundamentally different from the surface fastener as defined in amended Claim 1. Taniyama, et al. discloses a conventional coupling mechanism, which requires phase alignment to correctly establish engagement therebetween. According to the present invention, neither a phase alignment between components nor any mechanism to achieve a phase alignment between components is required.

Kobe is merely cited for disclosing a surface fastener. It is respectfully submitted that Kobe is deficient *vis-à-vis* the invention recited in Claim 1 for the same reasons as given above with respect to Taniyama, et al.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Taniyama, et al. nor Kobe discloses or suggests use of a surface fastener providing a driving force for feeding toner in a toner container. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that neither Taniyama, et al. nor Kobe

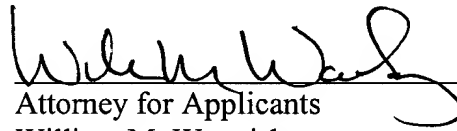
discloses or suggests use of a surface fastener for the driving force receiving portion for receiving the driving force for driving an image bearing member in an image forming unit.

Claims 3 through 7, 11 through 13, 15, and 16 depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 1 and are allowable by virtue of their dependency and in their own right for further defining Applicants' invention. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims on file are allowable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are respectfully submitted.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE TO ABSTRACT**

The Abstract of the Disclosure section starting at page 104, line 2 and ending at page 104, line 12 has been amended, as follows.

--A driving force receiving member for receiving a driving force from an image forming apparatus includes a driving force receiving portion for receiving the driving force from a driving force applying portion of the image forming apparatus[, wherein said]. The driving force receiving portion is movable relative to the driving force applying portion to permit engagement and disengagement relative to the driving force applying portion[; wherein said]. The driving force receiving portion is provided with a surface fastener.--

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS**

1. (Amended) A developer container detachably mountable to [driving force receiving member for receiving a driving force from] an image forming apparatus, said developer container comprising:

a main body for accommodating a developer, said main body being provided with an opening for permitting discharge of the developer; and

a driving force receiving portion for receiving the driving force for feeding the developer in said main body toward the opening, the driving force being supplied from a driving force supplying [applying] portion provided in [of] the image forming apparatus,

wherein said driving force receiving portion is engageable with the driving force supplying portion by relative movement toward each other [movable relative to the driving force applying portion to permit engagement and disengagement relative to the driving force applying portion;], and

wherein said driving force receiving portion includes [is provided with] a surface fastener for disengageable engagement with a surface fastener included in the driving force supplying portion.

3. (Amended) A developer container [driving force receiving member] according to Claim 1 [2], wherein each of said surface [fasteners] fastener of said driving force receiving [applying] portion and the surface fastener of the [said] driving force supplying [receiving] portion includes [has] a plurality of elastically deformable

projections[, and said protections of said driving force applying portion and said projections of said driving force receiving portion],

wherein said projections of said driving force receiving portion are engageable with the projections of the driving force supplying portion [each other].

4. **(Amended)** A developer container [driving force receiving member] according to Claim 3, wherein each of said plurality of projections of said [the protections of the] surface fastener of said driving force receiving [applying] portion and the plurality of projections of the [said] driving force supplying [receiving] portion is thicker [are thick] at a free end [portions] portion than at a base end [portions] portion thereof.

5. **(Amended)** A developer container [driving force receiving member] according to Claim 3, wherein one of [the] said plurality of projections [protections] of said driving force receiving portion and the plurality of the projections of [said] driving force supplying [applying] portion are in the form of loops and the other of [them are] said plurality of projections of said driving force receiving portion and the plurality of projections of the driving force applying portion are configured in the form of hooks.

6. **(Amended)** A developer container [driving force receiving member] Claim 3, wherein each of said plurality of projections [of said surface fasteners] of said driving force receiving [applying] portion and the plurality of projections provided of the

[said] driving force supplying [receiving] portion [have configurations] is configured in the form of a frustum of a pyramid.

7. **(Amended)** A developer container [driving force receiving member] Claim 3, wherein a free end [portions] portion of [the] each of said plurality of projections [of said surface fasteners] of said driving force receiving [applying] portion and the plurality of projections of the [said] driving force supplying [receiving] portion [are] is rounded.

11. **(Amended)** A developer container [driving force receiving member] according to Claim 1 [2], wherein said driving force receiving member includes a projection, which projects toward the driving force supplying member, so as to surround a projection formed on the driving force supplying portion [wherein at least one of said driving force applying portion and said driving force receiving portion is provided with a projected portion which surround the associated one of said surface fasteners].

12. **(Amended)** A developer container [driving force receiving member] according to Claim 11, wherein a free end of said projected portion is provided [at its free end portion] with a bent portion.

13. (Amended) A developer container [driving force receiving member] according to Claim 11, wherein a free end of said projected portion is provided [at its free end portion] with a folded-back portion.

15. (Amended) A developer container [driving force receiving member] according to Claim 1 [11], further comprising:

a sealing member for unsealably sealing the opening,

a feeding member for feeding the developer in said main body toward the opening,

wherein said feeding member is integrally rotatable with said sealing member by the driving force received by said driving force receiving portion [wherein said developer container includes a developer accommodating portion provided with an opening for permitting supply of the developer into the developer receiving device, for accommodating the developer, and a sealing portion for unsealably searing said opening].

16. (Amended) A developer container [driving force receiving member] according to Claim 1 [15], wherein said driving force receiving portion is provided at one end portion of said main body adjacent to the opening, and said main body is rotatable by the [in said sealing portion, and said developer container includes a transmitting portion for transmitting a rotational] driving force received by said driving force receiving portion.